BACKSTAGE

Working backstage is such an important role for each and every production. The role is to help and assist not only the Stage manager but also the cast. Whether it is to help set up the next scene, help out with quick changes during the play or come to an actors aid if they forget a vital prop, your role will be seen as vital as any other member in that production.

The role can also help any actor who for what ever reason feels nerves by being in or around a stage. You get to feel that pit of nerves but for different reasons to the actors who are out front. The pressure and excitement may not be the same but it is still there. And the end rewards are just as enjoyable. Your contribution is well received by every member of the production and very much appreicated by all.

In the coming months we are looking at doing a small film on what goes on backstage, from se builds to how we workout and plan scene changes. And ending off with all the group striking the set at the end of the last performance.

This is being done to help and encourage members, new and old, to step forwards and assist in forth coming productions. The current state of members coming forwards is simply not acceptable. For this years panto we had zero replies from members wanting to help out, and one member for June's showing of 'Blue stockings'. In the end we had to get new members in and were very lucky that the cast were up for helping out as well.

Because of this I am proposing that we offer the backstage roles to those members, old or new, to those people who were unlucky on not getting a role in that production. One of the reason for this is that in auditioning for a part, you have and will be made aware of all the dates that you would be needed in order to be in that production. In filling out the form with your details and what character you are wanting to audition for, the role for backstage will be pre filled in with a message informing you that you may be asked to help out backstage if unsuccessful. You will be encourage to turn up to some rehearsals and may be asked to read in for any member cast but is not available for that particular rehearsal, help with any furniture that needs to be moved during rehearsal, and may even be approached by the current director to possibly stand in and understudy an actor, who for hat ever reason, is no longer able to carry on in the production. This has happened quite a few times, and have been very grateful to those members who have stepped in on very short notice.

Hopefully in the coming years, members will enjoy working and being involved in our productions in none acting roles as much as I have. I have always found it a great honor in being asked (after auditioning) to either work on stage as either an actor or as stage manager or ASM or as some one just simply being there to help out and being useful to any production.